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DATE 7/11/2016

NEWS RELEASE

STI Charges Man in US 54 Fatal That Occurred in March 2016

Date: 3/2/2016
Time: 3:25 a.m.
Location: US 54 North mile marker 27
Arrested: 27-year old Gonzalo PASILLAS II of 800 block of Silvestre, El Paso, TX
Vehicle: 2004, Chevy Cavalier
Driver: 33-year old Ruth Naomi Desoto of El Paso **(DECEASED)**
Vehicle: 2007 Jeep Liberty

EL PASO, TEXAS: Investigators assigned to the El Paso Police Department's Special Traffic Investigations (STI) unit have arrested and charged 27-year old Gonzalo PASILLAS II with Accident Involving Personal Injury or Death as a result of the March 2nd fatal collision that claimed the life of 33-year old Ruth Naomi Desoto. PASILLAS II has been identified as the driver of a 2004 Chevrolet that struck Desoto during the early morning hours on US 54. PASILLAS was arrested and booked into the El Paso County Jail on Wednesday, July 6, 2016. His bond was set at \$25,000.00.

HISTORY 03-02-2016

Special Traffic Investigators responded to US 54 north at mile marker 27 to assist with the investigation of a fatal traffic collision. A 2007 Jeep Liberty, driven by 33-year old Ruth Naomi Desoto was travelling north on 54 when she veered off the roadway and struck the center divider cables causing the vehicle to roll. The driver was ejected and came to rest on the southbound lanes. Passers-by stopped to assist and were attempting to divert on-coming traffic when a dark colored compact car struck the driver as she lay injured on roadway. The driver of that vehicle failed stop and continued driving south on US 54. The dark colored compact car may possibly have damage to the front end and may be missing the entire front right headlight housing. Traffic investigators are asking one with information on this collision to please contact the Special Traffic Investigations unit at (915) 212-4080 or police dispatch at (915) 832-4400. If the involved driver wishes to come forward, they may do so at Police Headquarters at 911 Raynor, any Police Regional Command Center, flag down any police officer or call (915) 832-4400. This is the 13th traffic fatality compared to 8 this time last year.

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